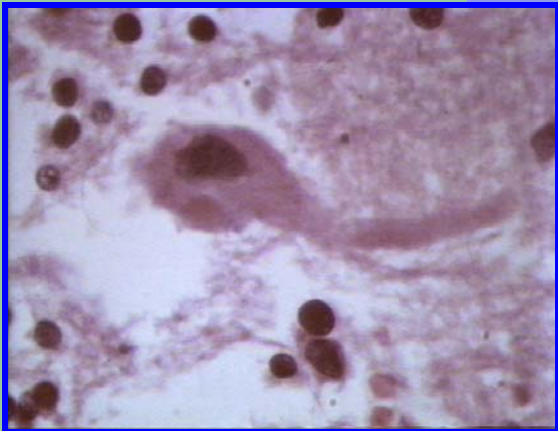


Contact Information

To receive approval to ship or
to obtain a Packaging and
Shipping Kit, contact your
Local Health Jurisdiction.

Your LHJ contact
information can be found at
this website:
doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm



Department of Health
Public Health Laboratories
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155



Rabies Testing at the Public Health Laboratories



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Rabies Testing at the Public Health Laboratories

Background:

In the past 25 years, the Public Health Laboratory tested ~ 9,200 animals (bats, cats, and horses) for rabies with 206 (2%) of the animals being positive. Rabid bats have been found in almost every county in Washington State.

Rabies is a viral disease which is fatal to infected humans who do not receive appropriate and timely treatment. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are between 35,000 and 50,000 deaths annually world wide from rabies.

The virus is carried in the animal's saliva and enters the body through broken skin. Once the symptoms appear, the disease causes death within days.

Any exposure to a suspect animal requires immediate medical attention. Animals must be tested for presence of the rabies virus and should only be handled by professionals.

If you suspect an exposure to rabies:

- Contact your Local Health Jurisdiction.
- Keep specimens cold to reduce deterioration.
- Chill bats and animal heads as soon after death as possible.
- Do not freeze.
- Do not use wet ice.
- Only submit the heads of dogs, cats, raccoons and other animals.

Call to arrange shipment to:

**Washington Public Health
Laboratories
Attention: Virology
Phone: 206-418-5400**



**Public Health Laboratories
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155
Phone: 206-418-5400
Fax: 206-418-5445**